

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 FEA-02 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, UK

SUBJECT: AEC LETTER COUNTERS LWR SAFETY CRITICISM

REF: LONDON 7172

1. THE FINANCIAL TIMES OF JUNE 26 PUBLISHED A LONG LETTER FROM DR. HERBERT J.C. KOUTS, AEC REACTOR SAFETY DIRECTOR, REBUTTING SIR ALAN COTTRELL'S EXPRESSED FEARS REGARDING LIGHT WATER REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL INTEGRITY (REFTEL). SAME ISSUE OF FINANCIAL TIMES FEATURED A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY ITS SCIENCE EDITOR ON KOUTS'S LETTER, EXTRACTING THE LATTER'S POINTS CONCERNING THE MARGIN OF SAFETY WHICH AEC TESTS SHOW IS AVAILABLE TO LWR PRESSURE VESSELS EVEN WITH STANDARDS OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION "MUCH MORE CASUAL" THAN NORMAL. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT BRITAIN IS BEING PROVIDED FULL RESEARCH DATA ON REACTOR PRESSURE VESSELS. A DECISION ON REACTOR CHOICE, ACCORDING TO THE FT, IS EXPECTED IN TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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WEEK'S TIME AND LIKELY WILL BE IN FAVOR OF STEAM GEN-

ERATING HEAVY WATER REACTORS DESPITE AEC FINDINGS ON LWR
SAFETY. (FT ARTICLE FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM).

2. KOUTS'S LETTER OBVIOUSLY IS USEFUL IN ALLAYING
CRITICISM OF LWR SAFETY AND POSSIBLY WILL PROVE TO BE
TIMELY IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF HMG. A WHITE
PAPER OUTLINING THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION REPORTEDLY
IS NOW BEING DRAFTED.
ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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